



AF / 3732
JRW

Docket No. HRT-233

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James R. Gannoe, et al.

Serial No. : 09/492,558 Art Unit: 3732

Filed : January 27, 2001 Examiner: P. Philogene

For : APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC SURGERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

September 27, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

September 28, 2004

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), certification is hereby made that:

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or

No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item

of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement,
was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three
months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.



Brian S. Tomko
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DATED: September 2nd, 2004

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SEP. 24 2004

SUBMISSION UNDER MPEP 609 D

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 SUBMISSION UNDER MPEP 609 D	Application Number 09/492,558 Filing Date January 27, 2000 First Named Inventor J. R. Gannoe Group Art Unit 3732 Examiner Name P. Philogene Attorney Docket Number HRT-233
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James R. Gannoe, et al.

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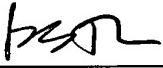
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(Signature)

September 27, 2004

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 20231

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This copy is supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement mailed on April 28, 2003.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this

information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with the first or second After Final Submission, therefore:

- Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e)
(attached); or
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e)
(attached); or
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-
0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth
in §1.17(p).

In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

- Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.
- Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:
- In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.
- If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
- Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not

enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a) (2) (i)).

There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

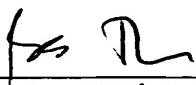
Attached are copies of search reports from corresponding patent applications, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Copies of the references listed on the search reports are included except for those previously cited in an IDS mailed April 28, 2003.

Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HRT-233/BST. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Tomko

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Attorney for Applicants

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DATED: September 27, 2004

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

<i>Application Number</i>	09/492,558
<i>Filing Date</i>	January 27, 2000
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	J. R. Gannoe
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	3732
<i>Examiner Name</i>	P. Philogene
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	HRT-233

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS,SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450